



TxDOT's five goals: reduce congestion, enhance safety, expand economic opportunity, improve air quality and increase the value of transportation assets.

July 29, 2010

State approves funding for transportation enhancement projects

AUSTIN – The Texas Transportation Commission today approved \$76 million in funding for 54 transportation-related enhancement projects.

The action gives the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) authority to move forward with funding for the Transportation Enhancement Program.

The federally-funded program supports transportation-related activities that promote the quality of the environment through aesthetic enhancements associated with transportation. The current, federal transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU, requires transportation enhancement projects be funded over the life of the bill.

The program provides funding for projects that contribute to the livelihood of communities, promote the quality of our environment, and enhance the aesthetics of our roadways.

“These projects will provide opportunities for enhancements that will compliment the transportation system by supporting hike & bike trails, visitor centers, and beautification and restoration efforts,” said Ted Houghton, Texas Transportation Commissioner. “Local communities’ transportation experience will be enhanced through this program’s funding.”

Projects were selected on a competitive basis. TxDOT issued a program call for project nominations in October 2009. The 54 projects selected (see attachment) are the result of 200 project nominations received in response to the program call.

Selection for funding does not constitute a grant. Selected projects are eligible for reimbursement for up to 80 percent of allowable costs. The entity nominating a project is responsible for the remaining cost share, including cost overruns.

Eligible projects must demonstrate a relationship to the surface transportation system through either function or impact. Project nominated must incorporate one of the following 12 categories:

Pedestrian and bicycle facilities; [safety and education activities for pedestrians and bicyclists](#); [acquisition of scenic easements and scenic and historic properties](#); [scenic or historic highway programs](#) (including providing tourist and welcome center facilities); [landscaping and other scenic beautification](#); [historic preservation](#); [rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities](#) (including historic railroad facilities and canals); [preservation of abandoned railway corridors](#) (including conversion and use for pedestrian and bicycle facilities); [control and removal of outdoor advertising](#); [archaeological planning and research](#); [environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity](#); and [establishment of transportation museums](#).

The Texas Department of Transportation

TxDOT is responsible for maintaining over 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its more than 12,000 employees strive to empower local leaders to solve local transportation problems, and to use new financial tools, including tolling and public-private partnerships, to reduce congestion and pave the way for future economic growth while enhancing safety, improving air quality and increasing the value of the state's transportation assets. Find out more at www.txdot.gov. Follow us! www.txdot.gov/facebook, www.twitter.com/txdot.

For more information, call TxDOT's Government & Public Affairs Division at (512) 463-8700.